

ACRONYMS

Acronym	Definition	Description
AEA	Area Education Agency	Iowa's 12 AEA's function as an intermediate service unit and assist the Department of Education in providing services and support to school districts and schools.
CACFP	Child and Adult Care Food Program	Federal program that provides reimbursements to care providers for nutritious meals and snacks. Department of Education Program
CCA	Child Care Assistance	Iowa's child care program for low income families as defined by the legislature
CCA Plus	Child Care Assistance Plus	Exit eligibility portion of Iowa's CCA Program. When reach an income limit a family no longer will receive CCA
CCDBG	Child Care and Development Block Grant	The Federal laws and regulations that govern the CCDF program
CCDF	Child Care Development Fund	The program that States administer, including the Federal financial support, to support child care for low-income parents and improve the overall quality of child care
CCNC	Child Care Nurse Consultant	Registered nurses who provide on-site consultation, training and technical assistance to child care and preschool providers.
CCR&R	Child Care Resource and Referral	CCR&R's mission is to actively respond to community needs for affordable and accessible quality child care by providing resources, education and advocacy for children, parents, child care providers, and employers. The Iowa CCR&R system is divided into 5 regional areas, each with a regional office and numerous area offices

CDA	Child Development Associate	A CDA credential identifies an individual who has successfully completed a CDA assessment and has been awarded the CDA credential. S/he is able to meet the specific needs of children and works with parents and other adults to nurture children's physical, social, emotional, and intellectual growth in a child development framework. The following child care settings are eligible for a credential: center-based, family child care, and home visitor.
CRIS	Childcare Regulation Information System	Iowa's child care provider regulation management system.
DHS	Department of Human Services	State of Iowa Agency
ECI	Early Childhood Iowa	Early Childhood Iowa is a systems development effort to better coordinate and integrate the "system of systems" that serves young children, birth to five years of age, and their families.
FPL	Federal Poverty Level	Annual poverty guidelines set by the federal government
Iowa AEYC	Iowa Association for the Education of Young Children	Iowa Association for the Education of Young Children -- Iowa affiliate of the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)
IQ4K	Iowa Quality for Kids	The updated version of Iowa's voluntary child care quality rating and improvement system. This version is not yet operational. Currently an IT system is being built to facilitate on-line application and the system will roll out after the IT system is functional.
KT	Kinder Track	Iowa's child care computer system. Handles family eligibility determinations and issues payments to eligible providers.
MRS	Market Rate Survey	Provider reimbursement rate survey conducted every three years by DHS
NAEYC	National Association for the Education of Young Children	NAEYC offers early childhood educators professional development opportunities designed to improve the quality of services for children from birth through age eight – the critical years of development.

NAFCC	National Association for Family Child Care	NAFCC is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting quality child care by strengthening the profession of family child care. The organization offers a national accreditation for family child care businesses.
QRS	Quality Rating System	Voluntary child care provider rating system ranging from 1 to 5 (5 being the highest quality)
SMI	State Median Income	Iowa's median income as reported by the federal Census Bureau
TEACH	Teacher Education and Compensation Helps	T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® is a nationally licensed child care workforce scholarship program with the purpose of increasing education and compensation to early care and education teachers and providers, and reducing turnover in child care programs
WAGE\$	Child Care WAGE\$ Program	Child Care WAGE\$ is a nationally licensed program which provides education-based salary supplements to the child care workforce to help combat low wages and supports retention of the child care workforce.